

Botanic Name: *Globba bulbifera* Roxb. -- Asiat. Res. xi. (1810) 358. (IK). (syn. *Globba marantina*)

Common Name: Maranti's Swan Flower

Family; Zingiberaceae

Habitat: Terrestrial.

Distribution: Kerala and Tamil Nadu, becoming rare in West Bengal, India; China, Indian subcontinent, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines to New Guinea and northern Australia. Low growing capacity, grazing, extensive degradation to natural habitats and unsustainable exploitation for medicinal purposes are some of the causes of its gradual extinction from many parts of Indian subcontinent and SE Asia

Description: An erect rhizome forming herbs, with slender stem up to 50 cm tall, usually solitary. Leaves are bifarious, oblong-lance shaped, pointed at tip, sessile, glabrous. Inflorescence type is a spike, up to 10 cm long, often with bulbils towards the base. Bracteate; bracts are 1-2 cm long, broadly ovate, greenish; bracteolate with bracteoles 1 cm long, ovate. Flowers are single formed in each bract, 1.4 cm long, tube slender, petals short, yellow; lip as long as the flower, deeply 2-lobed, yellow, calyx funnel shaped, 3-lobed.; stamen 1, anthers broadly winged; lateral staminodes oblong; ovary 1-celled; ovules many on 3-parietal placentas; style 1, slender; stigma top-shaped. Fruit capsule type oblong, glabrous, coarsely rugose

Phytochemicals: Tubers are rich in amino acids, cardiac glycosides, and fatty acids; metabolites like cholesterol, steroids, alkaloids, cardiac glycosides, tannins, terpenoids, phlobatinins, fatty acids and phenols.

Medicinal/Economic uses: Antimicrobial and antioxidant; presence of cardiac glycosides is used in the Indian medicinal system. The plant can be seen as potential source of useful drugs. The small bulbils used as a flavouring somewhat spicy, can be eaten fresh or dried; also used in the same way as cardamom because of their pleasant taste. The small bulbils are used to stimulate the appetite. Traditionally, the plant part/s are used in various ailments such as mouth ulcer, conjunctivitis, post natal care, eye abrasions, asthma, analgesic, heart pain, and stomach upset in different tropical countries.